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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,657	03/24/2004	Terrence K. Jones	A002 P00908-US1	3906
826	7590	01/05/2006	EXAMINER FERGUSON, MARISSA L	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			ART UNIT 2854	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,657

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL. *ala*

Examiner

Marissa L. Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 42 and 43 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10 and 26-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17-25 and 33-40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/14/05 & 6/14/05 *llh*

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: the second "said" on page 5, line needs to be taken out after the first "said". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10,13-16,26 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skubic et al. (US Patent 6,105,493).

Regarding claims 10 and 26, Skubic et al. teaches a method and apparatus comprising a frame (elements 24,26 as located in figure 1 of embodiment 1 and element 90 as located in figure 4) comprising at least one guide rail (52a, 52b as located in figure 1 in embodiment 1 and element 90 as located in figure 4 in embodiment 2) extending relative to a defined media path of a printer, a carrier unit consisting of flip guide members (56,60 as located in figure 1 of embodiment 1 and elements 96,98 as located in figure 4 of embodiment 2) slidably coupled to the guide rail for transporting the media in a first direction and in an opposite direction along a guide rail (Figure 2, Figure 4, Column 4, Lines 30-52 and Column 5, Lines 16-34), at least one rotatable flip

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guide (56,60) coupled to the carrier unit for holding the media (62) and a flip stop member wherein when the carrier unit slides along the rail the flip stop member passively interacts with the rotatable flip guide to rotate thereby reorienting the media in the carrier unit (please refer to figure 2 on page 4).

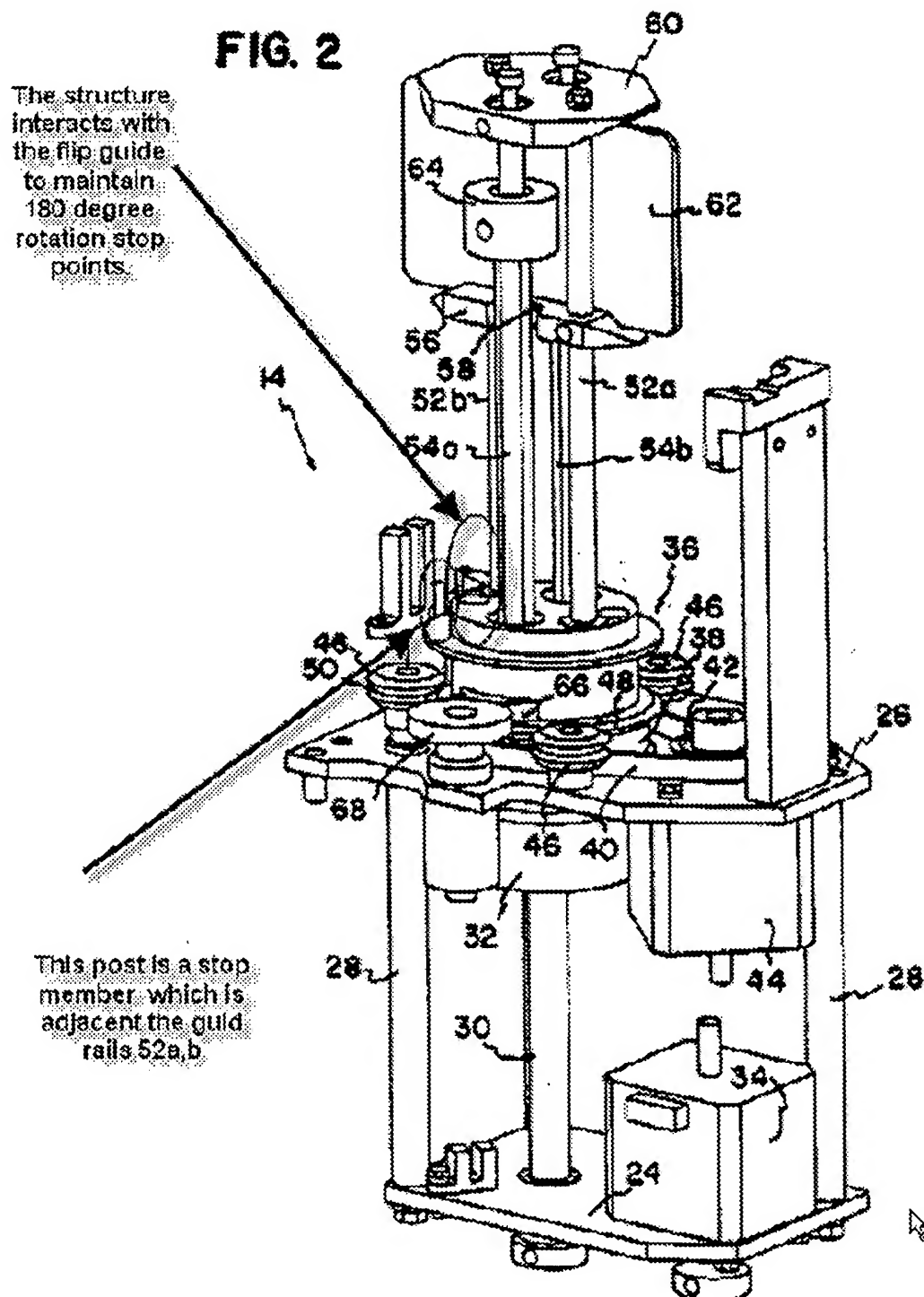
Regarding claims 13 and 29, Skubic et al. teaches a method and apparatus comprising a biasing member coupled to and exerting a force on a flip guide (element 96 as located in figure 4 in second embodiment) for providing assistance with the carrier unit (Column 6, Lines 2-8).

Regarding claims 14 and 30, Skubic et al. teaches a method and apparatus comprising a motor driven means (element 34 as located in figure 1 in embodiment 1 and element 104 as located in figure 4 in embodiment 2) coupled to the carrier unit for moving the unit in the first and opposed directions.

Regarding claims 15 and 31, Skubic et al. teaches a method and apparatus comprising a carrier unit comprising two flip guides (56,60 as located in figure 1 in embodiment 1 and elements 96,98 as located in figure 4 of embodiment 2) for holding the media (62).

Regarding claims 16 and 32, Skubic et al. teaches a method and apparatus comprising a carrier unit comprising a shaft (54a,54b as located in figure 1) connected to the flip guide for rotating the flip guide and an adjustable friction means (64) connected to the shaft.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10-13, 15, 26-29, 31 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroyuki (JP 56162185) and Skubic et al. (US Patent 6,105,493)

Regarding claims 10 and 26, Hiroyuki teaches a method and apparatus comprising a frame comprising at least one guide rail (4H) extending relative to a defined media path of a printer, a carrier unit consisting of flip guide members (please refer to figure c pasted in office action) slidably coupled to the guide rail for transporting the media in a first direction and in an opposite direction along a guide rail (Figure on abstract) and at least one rotatable flip guide (please refer to figure c pasted in office action) coupled to the carrier unit for holding the media (Purpose and constitution). However, he does not explicitly disclose a flip stop member wherein when the carrier unit slides along the rail the flip stop member passively interacts (note: the examiner does not understand how the invention can work without some type of driven means) with the rotatable flip guide to rotate thereby reorienting the media in the carrier unit. at least one rotatable flip guide (56,60) coupled to the carrier unit for holding the media (62) and a flip stop member wherein when the carrier unit slides along the rail the flip stop member passively interacts with the

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flip guide. Skubic et al. teaches a stop member passively interacts with the rotatable flip guide to rotate thereby reorienting the media in the carrier unit (please refer to figure 2 on page 4).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention as taught by Hiroyuki to include a stopping mechanism as taught by Skubic et al. for the purpose of preventing excessive rotation of the carrier unit and provide correct orientation of the card thereby providing a smooth transference to an adjacent station.

Regarding claims 11 and 27, Hiroyuki teaches a method and apparatus comprising a carrier unit (refer to figure c pasted in office action) comprising a cam arm (refer to figure 2a pasted in office action) coupled to a flip guide, wherein the carrier unit slides along a rail and a flip guide to rotate thereby reorient a media located in a carrier unit (refer to figure c pasted in office action). However, he does not explicitly disclose a stop member passively interacting with the flip guide. Skubic et al. teaches a stop member passively interacts with the rotatable flip guide to rotate thereby reorienting the media in the carrier unit (please refer to figure 2 on page 4).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention as taught by Hiroyuki to include a stopping mechanism as taught by Skubic et al. for the purpose of preventing excessive rotation of the carrier unit and provide correct orientation of the card thereby providing a smooth transference to an adjacent station.

Regarding claims 12 and 28, Hiroyuki teaches a method and apparatus for comprising a biasing member coupled to and exerting a force on a cam arm for assisting in rotation of the cam arm (please refer to figure 2a pasted in office action).

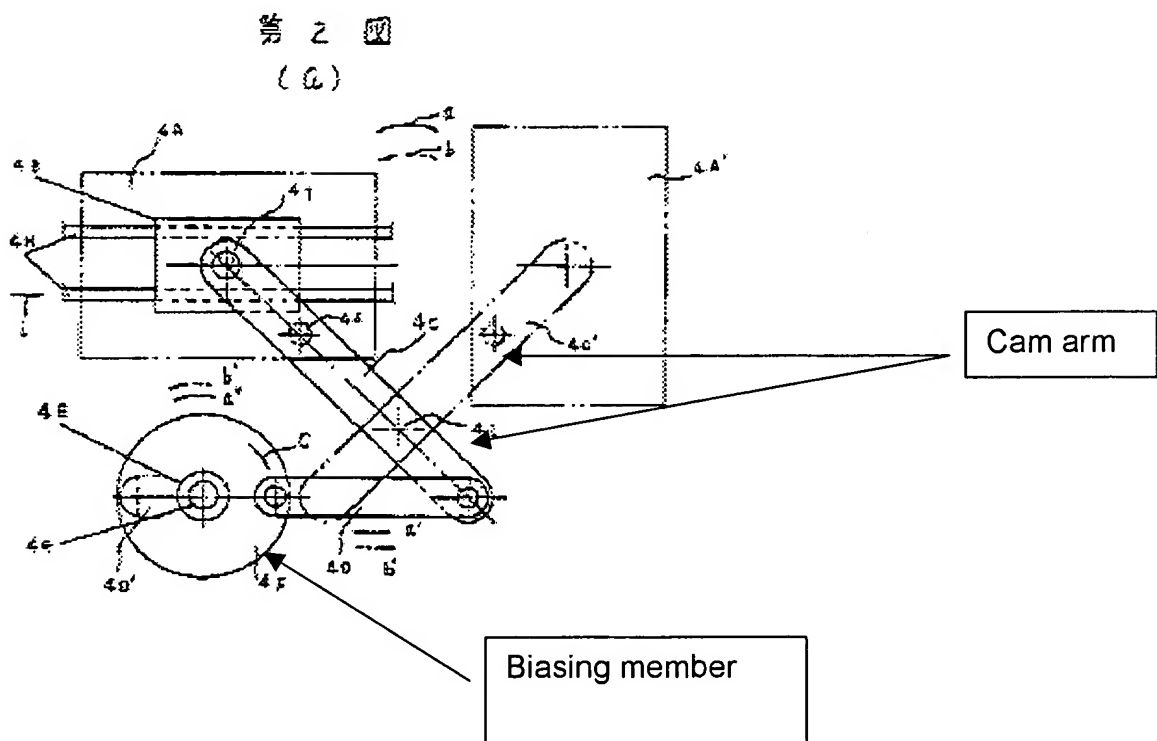
Regarding claims 13 and 29, Hiroyuki teaches a method and apparatus for comprising a biasing member coupled to and exerting a force on a rotatable flip guide for assisting in the rotation of the flip guide (please refer to figure 2a pasted in office action).

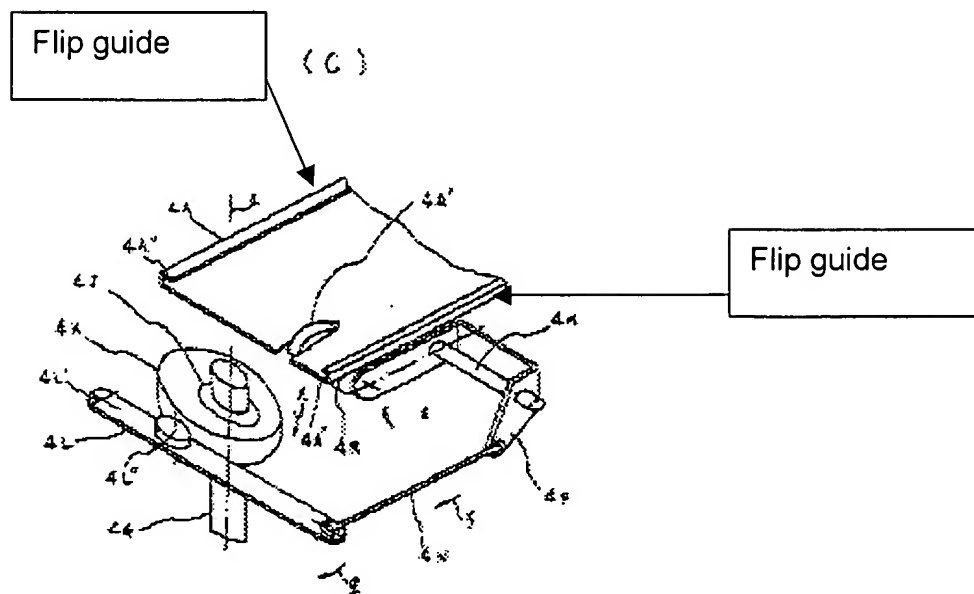
Regarding claims 15 and 31, Hiroyuki teaches a method and apparatus comprising a carrier unit comprising two flip guides (please refer to figure c pasted in office action) for holding the media.

Regarding claim 41, a method and apparatus comprising a frame comprising at least one guide rail (4H) extending relative to a defined media path of a printer, a carrier unit consisting of flip guide members (please refer to figure c pasted in office action) slidably coupled to the guide rail for transporting the media in a first direction and in an opposite direction along a guide rail (Figure on abstract), at least one rotatable flip guide (please refer to figure c pasted in office action) coupled to the carrier unit for holding the media (Purpose and constitution) and a cam arm (refer to figure 2a pasted in office action) coupled to a flip guide, wherein the carrier unit slides along a rail and a flip guide to rotate thereby reorient a media located in a carrier unit (refer to figure c pasted in office action). However, he does not explicitly disclose a stop member passively interacting with the flip guide. Skubic et al. teaches a stop member passively

interacts with the rotatable flip guide to rotate thereby reorienting the media in the carrier unit (please refer to figure 2 on page 4).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention as taught by Hiroyuki to include a stopping mechanism as taught by Skubic et al. for the purpose of preventing excessive rotation of the carrier unit and provide correct orientation of the card thereby providing a smooth transference to an adjacent station.





Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 17-25 and 33-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. Claims 1-9 and 42-43 are allowed
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claims 1 and 7, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a card flipping device for turning a card over in a card printer, comprising a rotatable cam arm connected to said rotatable flip guide, the arm being capable of moving in ascending and descending directions with the card-carrier unit, a spring biasing means, a pair of sliding stop members, the members being in a first position, wherein the ascending cam arm engages a flip stop member and a force exerted by a spring means causes the cam arm to rotate 180 degrees, thereby turning the card over and a pair of sliding flip stop actuator levers, wherein the descending cam arm of the card-carrier unit engages an

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actuator lever, thereby causing the flip stop members to slide from the first position to a second position.

Regarding claims 17 and 33, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a flip stop member that is locatable in both an extended and a retracted position relative to said guide rail, wherein in the extended position said flip stop member interacts with said rotatable flip guide as said carrier unit slides along said guide rail to thereby orient said rotatable flip guide.

Regarding claims 19 and 35, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method or apparatus comprising a pair flip stop members spaced apart from each other, wherein the flip stop members are locatable in both extended and retracted positions, wherein one of the flip stop members is in an extended position for interacting with said rotatable flip guide and the other of the flip stop members is in a retracted position to avoid interaction with said rotatable flip guide as the carrier unit slides along a guide rail.

Regarding claim 23 and 38, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method or apparatus comprising two rotatable flip guides for holding the media, wherein one of the flip guides is an inner flip guide coupled to the cam arm, and the other flip guide is an outer flip guide coupled to a shaft.

Regarding claim 24, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method or apparatus comprising a frame with a guide channel extending relative to the defined media path of a printer and substantially parallel with a guide rail, and the carrier unit further comprising an azimuth adjuster locatable in a guide channel to adjust the azimuth of a rotatable flip guide as it slides along a guide rail.

Regarding claims 25 and 40, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method or apparatus comprising two rotatable flip guides for holding the media, wherein each flip guide comprises a first elongated side frame member and a second elongated side frame member that are spaced apart to define a media-retaining channel there between, the first side frame member having an inner edge with a substantially concave central portion, and the second side frame member having an inner edge with a substantially convex central portion for gripping the media with the media-retaining channel.

Regarding claim 42, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method or apparatus comprising a pair flip stop members adjacent a guide rail spaced apart from each other, wherein the flip stop members are locatable in both extended and retracted positions, wherein one of the flip stop members is in an extended position for contacting the carrier unit and the other flip stop member is in a retracted position to avoid contact with the carrier unit as the carrier unit slides along a guide rail, and wherein when the carrier unit slides along a guide rail, the carrier unit contacts the flip stop member located in the extended position causing the carrier unit to rotate thereby reorienting the media located in the carrier unit.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other(F) 7:30am-4:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marissa L Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 2854

MLF



John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800